

Description of a New Fresh Water Cat-Fish, *Coreobagrus ichikawai*, with an Emendation of the Genus *Coreobagrus* MORI

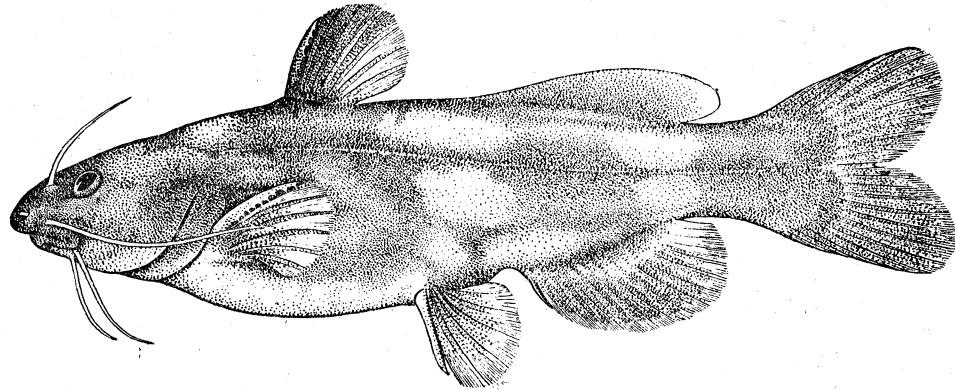
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The specimens which are referable to the new species of fresh water cat-fish were secured on May 1952 from the River Isuzu at Koraibiro, Ise-City, and on July 1952 from the River Miya at Osugidani Village, Taki-District, Mie Prefecture, Japan. This fish was described here under the name of *Coreobagrus ichikawai* dedicated to Professor Dr. Atsuhiko ICHIKAWA, Faculty of Science, Hokkaido University, who was benefactor in alma mater of the junior author.

The inclusion of this new species under the genus *Coreobagrus* MORI, however, has necessitated change of the definition of the generic characters as will be given latter on. The member of this genus is recorded from Japan for the first time.

We also express our gratitude to Dr. Tamezo MORI, Hyogo Agricultural University, for his kind advices.



Coreobagrus ichikawai, sp. nov. No. 6230, holotype, measuring 126.0 mm in total length, from River Miya. ($\times 1.0$)

Coreobagrus, MORI, emend.

Coreobagrus, MORI, 1936, Zool. Mag., 48, p. 672; UCHIDA 1939, Bull.

Fish. Exp. Gover.-Gener. Tyosen (Korea), 6, p. 39.

Moderate or small sized cat-fishes, with short trunk than the case of *Pseudobagrus* BLEEKER. Mouth transverse; upper jaw generally the longer; gill openings wide, the gill membranes well developed, overlapping the isthmus and separated at the chin. Eye large, the diameter 4.0 to 7.0 in the length of head, orbital rim with imperfect eyelid. Barbels eight, one nasal, one maxillary, and two mandibular pairs, maxillary pair reaches to the

base of the pectoral fin. Rayed dorsal fin with one serrated strong spine and six to seven rays; adipose dorsal with its posterior margin free, not adnate to back with caudal fin; pectoral with one serrated strong spine and six rays; anal short with thirteen to seventeen rays (including rudiment); caudal slightly emarginated or incompletely biforked, and the outline of each lobe is obtuse in comparision with *Pelteobagrus* BLEEKER.

Remarks: JAYARAM (1955) has cited JORDAN's consideration on the genus *Coreobagrus* MORI as follows: "*Coreobagrus* is probably synonymous with *Leiocassis* BLEEKER." In the same paper, he has stated that the fishes assigned into *Leiocassis* are reassignable to either in *Pelteobagrus*, *Pseudobagrus*, or *Mystus*. We support his opinion if the recognition of the genus *Coreobagrus* besides the three genera is agreed by him.

This genus has a more resemblance to genus *Pseudobagrus* BLEEKER (1860), but it is distinguishable from them by having shorter body, fewer of anal rays (seventeen or less), and larger eye.

Coreobagrus ichikawai, sp. nov.

New Japanese name: "Gigimodoki"; Local name at Osugidani: "Kanpachi"

Type specimen: locality—River Miya, Mie Prefecture, (collected on May, 1952) total length—126.0 mm.; body length—108.0 mm. (specimen number 6230, the Faculty of Fisheries, Prefectural University of Mie)

D. I, 7; A. I, 16 (14 to 16); P. I, 6; V. 6.

Head 4.1 (3.8 to 4.1) in body length; depth 3.7 (3.7 to 4.1); width 5.3 (4.9 to 5.8); distance from snout to origin of dorsal 2.7 (2.6 to 2.7); that from snout to anus 1.7 (1.7 to 1.8); that from snout to origin of anal 1.6 (1.6); that from snout to origin of adipose fin 1.6 (1.6 to 1.7). Snout 3.3 (3.0 to 3.7) in head length; orbit 6.6 (6.2 to 6.8); interorbital space 1.9 (1.9 to 2.4); greatest width of head 1.1 (1.1 to 1.2). Depth of caudal peduncle 1.6 (1.6 to 1.7) in its length.

Body short and rather compressed, tapering from anterior portion of the dorsal to posterior of the adipose fin, covered with very tensile and scaleless skin. Snout broad and depressed when viewed from above; upper jaw generally longer, and extending beyond transverse mouth; mouth half interior margin of eye; teeth uninterrupted with numerous villiform, crescentic band across the palate. Eye moderate size, superlateral, with imperfect eyelid. Interorbital space flat and broad with a shallow groove in the center; top of head covered with thin skin; upper surface of head, opercles and humeral processes with smooth ridges; occipital processes broad posteriorly and twice as long as wide at its base, a considerable interspace between it and the basal bone of the dorsal fin. Barbels four pairs, the nasal rather above half or shorter the length of head; maxillary pair extending beyond pectoral base; the mandibular pairs generally shorter than the others. Dorsal spine 2.7 (2.1 to 3.1) in head length, strong, anterior surface with smooth, serrated posteriorly; anterior rays longer than the spine, but posterior ones shorter. Adipose dorsal with a long base equalling about the interspace between the two dorsals, that with its posterior

margin free and very low in front. Ventral reaching beyond anal base. Anal higher than adipose and its base shorter than the latter. Pectoral spine 1.7 (1.7 to 1.8) in head length, and same to dorsal. Caudal incompletely biforked with blunted lobes, but rather distinct on account of the overlapping of upper and lower lobes of this fin; upper lobe slightly the longer. Lateral line nearly straight, running along the middle of caudal peduncle. Gill membranes well developed, overlapping the isthmus and being separated at the chin. Scapular processes exposed, pointed extending three fifths of the length of pectoral spine. Colour in formalin yellowish; top of head, below dorsal and adipose, from reaching to end of dorsal to base of adipose, and caudal peduncle dark brownish grey; ventral surface of head and abdomen whitish; the fins somewhat brownish grey, but anal and ventral margin paler.

Remarks: *Coreobagrus ichikawai* is distributed in a limited locality (River Miya, River Isuzu, and others) of South Ise, Mie Prefecture, Japan. Up to the present, the fishes assigned into this genus are only described one kind of short bodied cat-fish called *C. brevicorpus* from Korea by MORI (1936). *C. ichikawai* is obviously distinguished from *C. brevicorpus* by its slightly longer body, smaller eye, and incompletely biforked caudal.

Literatures

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